

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07033 212055Z

14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01

SCA-01 A-01 FBO-02 /027 W

----- 000918

R 211512Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 403

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7033

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN PURCHASE RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

REF: A. STATE 110526 B. LENINGRAD 692

1. SOVIET WATERFRONT PROPERTY PROPOSAL (REF A) RECALLS QUEST FOR RECIPROCAL BENEFIT AT TIME OF THEIR INITIAL PIONEER POINT PURCHASE, WHEN WE ENDED UP WITH LITTLE TO SHOW FOR OUR EFFORTS. A PRINCIPAL POSSIBILITY DISCUSSED WITH REFERENCE TO PIONEER POINT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN 1972/73 WAS GRANTING OF BOATING FACILITIES FOR EMBASSY STAFF IN AND AROUND MOSCOW. TO BEST OUR RECOLLECTION, SOVIETS NEVER FORMALLY RESPONDED TO OUR REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION SUCH FACILITIES AND ISSUE FADED INTO BACKGROUND BY MID-1973.

2. SHOULD LATEST SOVIET PROPOSAL PROVE FEASIBLE ON OTHER GROUNDS WE WOULD URGE DEPARTMENT TO SEEK RECIPROCITY IN FORM OF REASONABLY ADEQUATE BOATING FACILITIES IN MOSCOW AREA FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL. WHILE WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE OUR ACTIVITY REACHING LEVEL OF FLEET SOVIETS ALREADY ENJOY AT PIONEER POINT, SOVIETS HERE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE PIER, BOATHOUSES FOR STORAGE, AND ASSISTANCE WITH MAINTENANCE FOR ONE MEDIUM-SIZED RIVER CRUISE BOAT AND TWO OR THREE SMALL SAIL/MOTOR CRAFT. EXPANDED ACCESS TO WATERWAYS WOULD ALSO BE ESSENTIAL. SUCH APPROACH WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF FAIRLY DIRECT LINKAGE IN TERMS NATURE OF FACILITIES AND, GIVEN HISTORY SOVIET UNRESPONSIVENESS ON MANY RECREATION ISSUES, WE BELIEVE FIRM STAND WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07033 212055Z

3. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE ON STATUS
OF RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON SOVIET BOATING IN WASHINGTON AREA.
REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL, QUESTIONS INVOLVING
BOATING ON MOSCOW WATERWAYS ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME AND IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL TO HAVE CURRENT PICTURE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OUR VERIFICATON.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECREATION, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW07033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750179-0566
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750532/aaaabcdw.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 110526, 75 LENINGRAD 692
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET INTEREST IN PURCHASE RECREATIONAL PROPERTY
TAGS: PFOR, BGEN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006